



# Montana Crop & Livestock Reporter

survey results summary issued twice monthly by the  
USDA, NASS, Montana Field Office

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## HIGHLIGHTS:

Winter Wheat Production  
Hay Stocks  
Meat Animals PDI  
Milk PDI  
Poultry PDI  
Ag Prices Received  
Cattle Death Loss

## May 1, 2006 Crop Production Forecast

Based on May 1 conditions, Montana **winter wheat** producers expect a yield of 42 bushels per acre, down 3 bushels from last year's final yield. If realized, the winter wheat yield would tie the second highest yield on record. Total production is expected to be 81.9 million bushels, down 13 percent from last year's 94.5 million bushels. In the fall of 2005, Montana producers seeded 2.0 million acres of winter wheat, down 150,000 acres from the previous year. Producers expect to harvest 1.95 million acres, down 150,000 acres from last year.

As of May 7, Montana's winter wheat crop was rated better than a year ago with 2% very poor, 4% poor, 22% fair, 47% good, and 25% excellent compared with 1% very poor, 5% poor, 27% fair, 56% good, and 11% excellent a year ago. The mild spring conditions and rainfall in April helped the winter wheat break dormancy ahead of normal. The moisture received this spring has been beneficial for crop

development as 4 percent of the acreage has reached the boot stage compared with the five-year average of 2 percent.

On May 1, Montana **hay** producers held an estimated 1,463,000 tons of hay on hand, 70 percent more than they had on hand a year ago. Hay production for 2005 was a record 5.85 million tons, 23 percent more than the 2004 crop. Disappearance from December 1, 2005 to May 1, 2006 totaled 3.98 million tons, up 11 percent from the same period a year earlier.

In the United states, **winter wheat** production is forecast at 1.32 billion bushels, down 12 percent from 2005. Based on May 1 conditions, the U.S. yield is forecast at 42.4 bushels per acre, 2.0 bushels less than last year. Grain area totals 31.2 million acres, down 8 percent from last season.

Hard red wheat production is down 23 percent from a year ago to 715 million bushels. Soft red wheat is up 15 percent and totals 356 million bushels. White wheat production totals 252 million bushels, down 3 percent from a year ago. Of the white wheat production total, 21.7 million bushels are hard white wheat and 230 million bushels are soft white wheat.

U.S. all **hay** stored on farms May 1, 2006 totaled 21.3 million tons, down 23 percent from the previous year. Disappearance of hay from December 1, 2005-May 1, 2006,

totaled 83.7 million tons, 3 percent less than the disappearance of 86.8 million tons for the same period a year earlier.

Thirty-six of the 48 reporting states had lower May 1 hay stocks than a year ago. Hay stocks in most of these states were also below year ago levels for December 1 which resulted in the lower May 1 stocks. In the central Corn Belt and southern Great Plains, drought conditions during the summer months of 2005 resulted in increased supplemental feeding of hay, reducing the December 1 stocks. The largest decreases in May 1 stocks compared with last year occurred in Texas and Missouri, where drought conditions continued through the winter and this spring. As a result of the drought, pasture growth has been stunted and cattle producers have been forced to continue heavy feeding from already short hay supplies. Many producers in Texas began purchasing hay from other states in February.

Hay stocks increased from last year across the northern Great Plains and upper Mississippi Valley. Montana, Minnesota, and North Dakota showed the largest increases, as all three states experienced mild winter conditions. Additionally, hay production during 2005 was a record high in Montana and the second highest on record in North Dakota, which significantly contributed to the high volume of hay stocks in those states.

## Winter Wheat Acreage, Yield, and Production, by Selected States and U.S., 2005 and Forecast May 1, 2006

State	Area Harvested		Yield		Production	
	2005	2006	2005	2006	2005	2006
			Bushels		1,000 Bushels	
CO	2,200	2,000	24.0	27.0	52,800	54,000
ID	730	710	91.0	90.0	66,430	63,900
KS	9,500	9,400	40.0	34.0	380,000	319,600
<b>MT</b>	<b>2,100</b>	<b>1,950</b>	<b>45.0</b>	<b>42.0</b>	<b>94,500</b>	<b>81,900</b>
NE	1,760	1,650	39.0	38.0	68,640	62,700
OK	4,000	3,100	32.0	22.0	128,000	68,200
OR	780	760	61.0	55.0	47,580	41,800
SD	1,490	1,250	44.0	45.0	65,560	56,250
TX	3,000	1,300	32.0	27.0	96,000	35,100
US	33,794	31,177	44.4	42.4	1,499,129	1,322,831

## **2005 Meat Animals Production Disposition and Income**

Cash receipts from the 2005 marketings of cattle, hogs, and sheep in Montana totaled \$1.2 billion, up 1 percent from 2004. This is the second straight year that the cash receipts from the marketing of cattle, sheep, and hogs has exceeded one billion dollars for the State. Cash receipts for all three livestock classes were up from the previous year due to higher prices received.

Cash receipts from the sales of cattle and calves during 2005 were up slightly from 2004 to a new record high of \$1.1 billion. This is the second year in a row that cattle and calf cash receipts have exceeded one billion dollars. Marketings of cattle weighing 500 lbs or more, at 1.28 million head, were down 3 percent from 2004. Marketings of calves weighing less than 500 lbs decreased 32 percent from the previous year to 195,000 head. The average price received in 2005 for cattle weighing over 500 lbs increased \$13.00 per cwt to \$104.00 per cwt. Season average prices for calves weighing less than 500 lbs increased \$13.00 per cwt to \$138.00 per cwt. The January 1, 2006 value of cattle and calf inventory was \$2.9 billion, up 15 percent from 2005.

Cash receipts from the sale of hogs in Montana rose 6 percent from 2004 to \$41.2 million. Marketings of hogs and pigs dropped 2 percent from the previous year to 312,100 head. The average prices received for hogs increased \$0.80 from 2004 to \$53.10 per cwt. The value of the hog and pig inventory on December 1, 2005 was \$17.5 million, down 4 percent from last year.

Sheep and lamb cash receipts in Montana were up 18 percent from the previous year to \$27.5 million. Marketings of sheep and lambs in 2005 were 56,000 and 208,000 head, respectively. Sheep marketings were up 8,000 head from last year and lamb marketings were up 14,000 head. The average price for lambs rose \$12.00 to \$124.00 per cwt and sheep were \$3.80 above last year at \$43.30 per cwt. The January 1, 2006 sheep and lamb inventory value was \$43.4 million, up 9 percent from 2005.

The 2005 U.S. gross income from cattle and calves, hogs and pigs, and sheep and

lambs for the U.S. totaled \$65.3 billion, up 4 percent from 2004. Gross income increased for cattle and calves, hogs and pigs, and sheep and lambs. Cattle and calves increased 4 percent, hogs and pigs increased 5 percent, and sheep and lambs increased 10 percent.

Total 2005 cash receipts from marketings of meat animals increased 4 percent to \$64.8 billion. Cattle and calves accounted for 76 percent of this total, hogs and pigs 23 percent, and sheep and lambs 1 percent. Production increased for all cattle and calves, hogs and pigs, and sheep and lambs. Average prices were up for all three species.

Cattle and calves cash receipts from marketings increased from \$47.5 billion in 2004 to \$49.2 billion in 2005, a 4 percent increase. All cattle and calf marketings totaled 53.1 billion pounds in 2005, down 2 percent from 2004. The U.S. annual average price per 100 pounds live weight for cattle was \$89.70, an increase of \$3.90 from 2004. For calves, the annual average price increased from \$119.00 to \$135.00.

Cash receipts from hogs and pigs totaled \$15.0 billion during 2005, up 5 percent from 2004. Marketings totaled 28.5 billion pounds in 2005, up 3 percent from 2004. The U.S. annual average price per 100 pounds live weight increased from \$49.30 in 2004 to \$50.20 in 2005.

Sheep and lambs cash receipts from marketings in 2005 were \$570 million, up 10 percent from 2004. Marketings increased slightly to 571 million pounds. The U.S. annual average price per 100 pounds live weight for sheep increased from \$38.80 in 2004 to \$45.10 in 2005 while for lambs, the annual average price increased from \$101.00 to \$110.00.

## **2005 Milk Production, Disposition and Income**

Montana's dairies produced 372 million pounds of milk in 2005, up 7 percent from 2004. There was an average of 19,000 milk cows on farms and ranches during the year, up 1,000 head from the previous year. The average number of pounds produced per cow in 2005 was 19,579 pounds, 246 pounds more than 2004.

Cash receipts from marketings of milk during the year in Montana were \$56.3 million, up 5 percent from 2004. Producers received an average of \$15.30 per cwt, a decrease of \$0.30 per cwt from last year. Total marketings of milk, at 368 million pounds, were up 7 percent from a year ago. A total of 4 million pounds of milk were used on farms and ranches where produced, 2 million pounds of which were fed to calves and 2 million pounds consumed as milk, cream, and butter, unchanged from 2004.

Nationally, milk production increased 3.5 percent in 2005 to 177 billion pounds. The rate per cow, at 19,576 pounds, was 609 pounds above 2004. The annual average number of milk cows on farms was 9.04 million head, up 29,000 head from 2004.

Cash receipts from marketings of milk during 2005 totaled \$26.7 billion, 2.4 percent lower than 2004. Producer returns averaged \$15.20 per hundredweight, 5.8 percent below 2004. Marketings totaled 176 billion pounds, 3.6 percent above 2004. Marketings include whole milk sold to plants and dealers and milk sold directly to consumers.

An estimated 1.08 billion pounds of milk were used on farms where produced, 2.4 percent less than 2004. Calves were fed 87 percent of this milk, with the remainder consumed in producer households.

## **2005 Poultry Production and Value**

Montana's value of egg production in 2005 was \$3.3 million, down \$2.6 million from last year. Egg production in 2005 totaled 106 million eggs, down 1 percent from the previous year. The average price for eggs was \$0.374 per dozen, down from \$0.657 per dozen in 2004.

The U.S. value of broilers produced during 2005 was \$20.9 billion, up 2 percent from 2004. The total number of broilers produced in 2005 was 8.87 billion, up 1 percent from 2004. The total amount of live weight broilers produced in 2005 was 47.9 billion pounds, up 5 percent from 2004. The 2005 average price per pound on a live weight equivalent basis was 43.6 cents per pound, compared with 44.6 cents in 2004. (continued on back page)

## Agricultural Prices Received for March

March 2006 full month crop prices in Montana were higher when compared with the previous month. When comparing March 2006 prices with February 2006, winter wheat was \$3.73 per bushel, up \$0.16; the spring wheat price rose \$0.19 to \$3.97 per bushel; and the durum wheat price increased \$0.17 to \$3.42 per bushel. Feed barley prices rose \$0.01 to \$1.73 per bushel and malt barley prices increased \$0.31 to \$3.20 per bushel.

The mid-April price for alfalfa hay dropped \$6.00 to \$61.00 per ton but all other hay increased \$9.00 to \$65.00 per ton. Mid-April grain prices were mostly higher than the previous month with winter wheat at \$4.02 per bushel; spring wheat was \$4.27 per bushel; durum wheat was \$3.48 per bushel; feed barley was \$1.68 per bushel; and malt barley was \$3.70 per bushel.

Livestock prices for the full month of March were mostly lower when compared with the previous month. March 2006 price comparisons with February 2006 are as follows: the steer and heifer price decreased \$5.00 to \$113.00 per cwt; cows decreased \$0.20 per cwt to \$52.40; calves were down \$9.00 to \$141.00 per cwt; sheep prices were unchanged at \$38.10 per cwt; lamb prices dropped \$8.20 to \$95.80 per cwt; and milk increased \$0.10 to \$14.20 per cwt. The mid-April steer and heifer price was \$113.00 per cwt; cows were \$49.80 per cwt; calves were \$134.00 per cwt; and milk prices were \$13.50 per cwt.

Nationally, prices for March and changes from February were as follows: winter wheat was \$3.82, up \$0.23; spring wheat was \$3.85, up \$1.02; durum wheat was \$3.39, up \$0.04; the all barley price was \$2.71, up \$0.14; steer and heifer prices were \$93.00, down \$4.80 per cwt;

beef cattle were \$88.10, down \$4.30 per cwt; calves were \$138.00, down \$4.00 per cwt; sheep were \$39.50, down \$6.50; lambs were \$91.10, down \$5.70 from February; and all milk was \$12.60, down \$0.90 per cwt.

The U.S. mid-April winter wheat price was \$3.91 per bushel; spring wheat was \$4.02 per bushel; durum wheat was \$3.43 per bushel; all wheat was \$3.90 per bushel; malt barley was \$3.01 per bushel; and feed barley was \$1.74 per bushel. The steer and heifer price was \$89.70 per cwt; cow prices were \$48.70 per cwt; all beef cattle were \$85.20 per cwt; calves were \$136.00 per cwt; and all hog prices were \$39.10 per cwt.

The April All Farm Products Index is 115 percent of its 1990-92 base, up 0.9 percent from the March index but 5.0 percent below the April 2005 index.

## United States Index Summary

INDEX (1990-92=100)	March 2005	April 2005	March 2006	April 2006
Prices Received	119	121	114	115
Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes, & Farm Wage Rates 1/	139	140	146	147
Ratio 2/	86	86	78	78

1/ Prices paid indexes (1990-92=100) published monthly. 2/ Ratio of index of prices received by farmers to index of prices paid.

## Montana Average Farm Prices Received

Commodity	UNIT	Monthly Average				Change From Previous		Mid-Month Average	
		Montana		U.S.		Month	Year	Montana	U.S.
		March 2005	February 2006	March 2006	March 2006	February 2006	March 2005	April 15, 2006	April 15, 2006
		Dollars							
Winter Wheat	Bu.	3.34	3.57	3.73	3.82	+0.16	+0.39	4.02	3.91
Durum Wheat	Bu.	3.94	3.25	3.42	3.39	+0.17	-0.52	3.48	3.43
Spring Wheat	Bu.	3.72	3.78	3.97	3.85	+0.19	+0.25	4.27	4.02
All Wheat	Bu.	3.57	3.62	3.77	3.79	+0.15	+0.20	4.03	3.90
Barley, All	Bu.	2.72	2.74	3.00	2.71	+0.26	+0.28	3.42	2.67
Feed Barley	Bu.	1.66	1.72	1.73	1.80	+0.01	+0.07	1.68	1.74
Malt Barley	Bu.	3.20	2.89	3.20	2.93	+0.31	nc	3.70	3.01
Oats	Bu.	na	1.62	1.71	1.81	+0.09	nc	na	1.72
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	76.00	64.00	67.00	100.00	+3.00	-9.00	61.00	110.00
All Other Hay	Ton	69.00	60.00	56.00	86.60	-4.00	-13.00	65.00	93.20
All Hay Baled	Ton	74.00	63.00	66.00	97.10	+3.00	-8.00	61.00	106.00
Steers & Heifers	Cwt	107.00	118.00	113.00	93.00	-5.00	+6.00	113.00	89.70
Cows	Cwt	57.50	52.60	52.40	49.50	-0.20	-5.10	49.80	48.70
Beef Cattle 1/	Cwt	89.70	102.00	93.60	88.10	-8.40	+3.90	92.10	85.20
Calves	Cwt	131.00	150.00	141.00	138.00	-9.00	+10.00	134.00	136.00
Sheep	Cwt	52.40	38.10	38.10	39.50	nc	-14.30	na	na
Lambs	Cwt	125.00	104.00	95.80	91.10	-8.20	-29.20	na	na
All Milk	Cwt	14.70	14.10	14.20	12.60	+0.10	-0.50	13.50	12.10

1/ Composite of steers, heifers, and cows. na-not available. nc-no change.

## **Poultry Production and Value**

(continued from page two)

Value of all egg production in 2005 was \$4.04 billion, down 24 percent from the \$5.30 billion in 2004. Egg production totaled 90.0 billion eggs, up 1 percent from the 89.1 billion eggs produced in 2004. In 2005, all eggs averaged 53.9 cents per dozen, compared with 71.4 cents in 2004.

The value of sales from chickens (excluding broilers) in 2005 was \$64.6 million, up 12 percent from the \$57.6 million a year ago. Prices averaged 6.5 cents per pound, compared with 5.8 cents in 2004. The number of chickens sold in 2005 totaled 193 million, up 1 percent from the total sold during the previous year.

## **2005 Montana and United States Cattle Death Losses**

Montana cattle producers lost 20,000 head of cattle, weighing 500 lbs or more, and 46,000 calves, weighing less than 500 lbs, to all causes during 2005. A special report released every five years details the types of cattle and calf losses and the value of the losses. During 2005, 600 head of cattle, weighing 500 lbs or more and 2,400 calves, weighing less than 500 pounds were lost to predators. The total value of the cattle and calves

lost to predators was estimated to be \$1.671 million with the value of calves lost at \$994,000. Coyotes were the largest single cause of calf losses with 1,300 calves lost during 2005.

A total of 19,400 cattle and 43,600 calves were lost in Montana due to non-predators. The value of non-predator losses was \$40.0 million. The value of cattle losses was \$21.9 million and calf losses amounted to \$18.1 million. The leading causes of non-predator cattle losses were unknown, 4,200 head; other, 3,500 head; and respiratory with 3,100 head. The leading causes of calf losses were calving problems, 11,300 head; weather related, 10,200 head; and respiratory with 7,800 head.

The use of non-lethal predator control practices was published in this report. The percentage of Montana cattle producers utilizing the following non-lethal predator practices are:

Guard Animals - 21.8%  
Predator Exclusion Fencing - 21.1%  
Herding of animals - 9.6%  
Night Penning of cattle - 9.9%  
Frequent checks - 31.4%  
Fright Tactics - 7.8%  
Carcass Removal - 18.5%  
Culling - 31.7%  
Other non-lethal methods - 11.7%

U.S. cattle and calf losses from animal

predators and non-predator causes totaled 4.05 million head (excluding Alaska).

Cattle and calf losses from animal predators totaled 190,000 head. This represented 4.7 percent of the total losses from all causes and resulted in a loss of \$92.7 million to farmers and ranchers. Coyotes and dogs caused the majority of cattle and calf losses accounting for 51.1 percent and 11.5 percent respectively.

Cattle and calf losses from non-predator causes totaled 3.86 million head or 95.3 percent of the total losses. Respiratory problems was the leading cause of non-predator deaths accounting for 28.7 percent, followed by digestive problems at 16.8 percent.

Farmers and ranchers throughout the United States spent \$199.1 million on non-lethal methods to control predators. Use of guard animals was the most common method at 38.0 percent. Exclusion fencing, frequent checking, and culling were the next most commonly used methods of preventing cattle and calf losses at 34.0 percent, 21.8 percent, and 19.6 percent respectively.

This report is released as a cooperative effort between the National Agricultural Statistics Service and Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service-Wildlife Services and Veterinary Services.

## **COMING IN NEXT REPORTER**

Potato Stocks	Cattle and Beef Cow County
Milk Production	Estimates
Ag Chemical Use	Egg Production
Cattle on Feed	
Red Meat Production	

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